

REMARKS

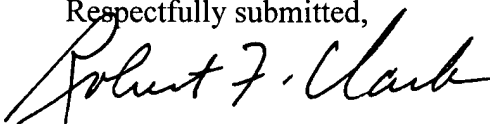
A petition and fee for a one-month extension to respond to the above-identified Office Action are being submitted concurrently herewith.

The rejection of claims 8 and 9 as being anticipated by Schug '587 is respectfully traversed. The Applicant respectfully asserts that Schug does not teach a double-ended discharge tube that, during manufacture, has a sealed electrode and an open capillary channel at each end of the discharge tube. Schug teaches a discharge tube that initially has two opposed side arms 14 with an open terminal end 18 through which the electrode assembly 20 is inserted. Col. 5, ll. 47-61. However, once the electrode assembly is sealed, these side arms are no longer open. Because of this the discharge tube is subsequently filled through the side tubulation arm 13. Col. 7, lines 14-39. As such, the discharge tube of Schug, when the electrode assembly is sealed within, no longer contains open channels at each end. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Schug.

The rejection of claims 8 and 9 as being anticipated by Wyner et al. '117 is respectfully traversed. The passages 40, 42 of Wyner et al. do not constitute open channels as asserted by the Examiner. The Applicant respectfully asserts that these passages only provide access to the interior of the feedthrough tube 16, the outer end 46 of which is hermetically sealed. Col. 5, ll. 4-26 and Fig. 5. The internal volume of the feedthrough is intended as a reservoir for the fill material. Thus, the passages 40, 42 are only in communication with the interior volume of the discharge tube and cannot constitute the open channels claimed by the Applicant. Since Wyner et al. does not teach this element of the claims, the Applicant respectfully asserts that the claimed invention is not anticipated by Wyner et al.

In view of the foregoing amendment, it is believed that the Examiner's rejections have been overcome and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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